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hygiene among existing plants and animals to the very geological and climatic causes which have left analogous records of their activity in fossil forms. He accounts on similar grounds for the distinguishing characteristics of the various races of men, past and present, as well as for the peculiarities of the Fauna and the Flora of each separate locality. Finally, under the title of "Ethical Geology," he deduces from the premises laid down in preceding chapters "practical suggestions as to the most effective means of improving the physical, mental, and moral condition of the human race." As to the accuracy in detail of some parts of this treatise, we do not feel competent to speak positively; but we have detected no inaccuracy, and the author's evident integrity of purpose conciliates our confidence for his statements of facts. As to some portions of his theory we are by no means prepared to agree with him. But the aim of the entire work is in the direction in which alone truth is to be sought, and, whatever currency and acceptance it may gain now, we have little doubt that half a century hence it will be found to have anticipated—in some cases dimly and vaguely—conclusions now received with incredulity, which will then have become axioms. Yet more, the book breathes, throughout, the spirit of a sincere lover of and seeker after truth, and of one whose researches are conducted under a profound sense of the Divine Being and Providence, and with an earnest desire to render praise to God and benefit to man.

22.—*Villas and Cottages. A Series of Designs prepared for Execution in the United States.* By CALVERT VAUX, late Downing and Vaux, Newburgh, on the Hudson. Illustrated by 300 Engravings. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1857. 8vo. pp. 318.

ABOUT a third part of this work is occupied by a preliminary chapter "On the Design, Construction, and Detail of Country-Houses." The desiderata of the dwelling-house as to light, heat, ventilation, drainage, health, comfort, and beauty are carefully considered, and the means of meeting them designated; the comparative merit of building materials, and of materials and modes of decoration, is discussed in a way that both interests and satisfies us; and the entire chapter is full of suggestions, which might make every owner of a house a quarter of a century old sorry that his house is not yet to be built. The residue of the volume is occupied with plans, descriptions, and estimates of houses in a great diversity of style, and ranging in cost from fifteen hundred to sixty thousand dollars. Most of these are houses actually built or contracted for; others are studies by the author. The entire work is

characterized by a keen perception of fitness and utility, chaste and elegant taste, and clearness and explicitness in detail. It will be an admirable *vade-mecum* for master-builders, and we would advise every man, who intends becoming the possessor of a new house, however worthy of confidence his architect may be, to consult this book in order to learn, as he cannot otherwise know them, his own needs and wants as to domestic accommodation, and the best mode of supplying them.

23. — 1. *The Child's Friend and Family Magazine*. ANNE W. ABBOT, Editor. Vol. XXVIII. Nos. 1 - 6. Boston: Leonard C. Bowles.
2. *The Child's Magazine*. Edited by MARY BARTOL. Vol. I. Nos. 1, 2. Portland: G. R. Davis and Brother.

THESE excellent periodicals are perhaps unfortunate in their names; or, rather, in this "fast" age we are unfortunate in the close limitation given to the once somewhat comprehensive term "child." In the numbers before us, there is much which would interest and instruct young persons of fifteen or sixteen. The first of the above-named journals was commenced in 1843, under the editorship of Mrs. Follen. Through various, and seldom prosperous fortunes, it has passed into the hands of Miss Abbot, whose large attainments, versatile talents, and eminently attractive style need only readers to multiply subscribers, and only patronage to make the work a continued means of the purest entertainment and the best moral and religious influence for children, and almost equally for their parents. No literary journal could demand a higher grade of editorial ability than she has brought to this enterprise. We trust that the new life thus thrown into a periodical which had its birth under the happiest auspices, may more than revive the fair promise of its first publication. We can speak in terms of similar commendation and hope of Miss Bartol's journal. The editor is a lady of fine native powers and large and varied acquirements, and brings to her task extensive and rich remembrances of foreign travel, from which she draws for the instruction of her juvenile readers. Her sole purpose is to do good, and she is but pursuing in a new form the loving labor of years, much of whose leisure has been generously devoted to the highest welfare of the young persons within the range of her influence. The two works will have each its own sphere of especial interest; but we trust that they will pass over each into the other's sphere, and no parent or child will deem two such monthly visitants otherwise than doubly welcome.